

SUMMARY COMMENTS AND STATUS OF HORIZONTAL DS 9. IMPURITIES

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

There was general agreement on the need to **re-draft this desk study** in order to introduce the missing elements of comparison of existing standards and evaluation of their pros and cons from a point of view of horizontal standardisation. Where possible, a distinction among different types of impurities (e.g. glass, plastics, stones etc) should be introduced. Such work should be completed by March 2004.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

HORIZONTAL DESK STUDY 9. IMPURITIES

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General

The method has been generally accepted. It was however proposed to evaluate the selection of the standard method based on experimental work in which different methods and samples are compared. This should preferably be performed with an interlaboratory trial. Furthermore mainly technical amendments were proposed. They can be evaluated in the next phase of project HORIZONTAL.

Some valuable research results were also sent. They contain additional data concerning the different available methods and their accuracy. Also research was presented in which the methods were compared.

Comments

In the following section, the most important points raised in the discussions are listed:

Points for the report

- Include Soil Improvers and Growing Media in the scope.
- The effect of washing should be discussed in the report.
- The importance of performing the analyses in repetitions should be a part of the report.
- The sieves should technically be more specified.
- It was suggested to include the method of the Austrian Compost Ordinance.

Points for research

- The determination of light plastics should be evaluated e.g. by surface determination.
- The choice between different methods should be performed based on experimental work preferably by an interlaboratory trial.
- The workability of the method in routine analyses should be concerned in the evaluation.
- The drying temperature is to be evaluated.
- It is suggested to use also a material with a known ‘artificial’ content of impurities for the interlaboratory trial.
- The method should define particle size and impurity differentiation based on specific product requirements.
- The amount of material to be tested should be evaluated to keep the costs of the method as low as possible.
- The differentiation between rigid plastic and plastic light (flexible or film) is doubted.

Proposal

The points of the report can easily be incorporated in the report. A research proposal can be set up for the technical points. The set up should be made together with possibly the “expert group” nominated for impurities or e.g. CEN/TC223 Soil Improvers and Growing Media WG 4 Analytical methods. Also the evaluation of the results could be performed together with them. In this way the standard will be broadly-based.

Summary for BT/Task force 151

Is the property assessed also the property that is needed?

- Yes

Are there different methods in the different fields?

- Only methods for compost were detected.

Is formulation of a horizontal standard covering sludge, soil and biowaste based on these different tests feasible.

- Yes

If no why not? If yes, what remaining points need to be resolved in ruggedness testing?

- The method as proposed deals only with materials until 40 mm. If a wider range of particles is wanted some research will have to be performed how to adapt the volumes in analyses. This will also have its influence on the method of sampling.
- Influence of temperature on physical characteristics of plastic impurities.
- The determination of light plastics should be evaluated e.g. by surface determination.
- The choice between different methods should be performed based on experimental work preferably by an interlaboratory trial. The workability of the method in routine analyses should be concerned in the evaluation.

- The method should define particle size and impurity differentiation based on specific product requirements.
- The amount of material to be tested should be evaluated to keep the costs of the method as low as possible.

What is the working range of the method?

- Soil improvers, growing media, sludge, soil and biowaste

How much work will be needed to take them to Horizontal standards?

- At least 2 years

What is the rate of throughput like, how long do they take?

- 2 days.